

Testimony by James White
Before the Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut Legislature
Wednesday, February 20, 2013

Good evening ladies and gentleman of the Appropriations Committee. My name is James White and I live at 22 Lourdes Court. I am a single parent of two children. I am the President of the Publicly-assisted Housing Resident Network. I am also the resident commissioner on the Meriden Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

For over 40 years, the state has provided payments-in-lieu-of-taxes to municipalities that host state-financed public housing. If this funding is eliminated, local housing authorities and nonprofit housing organizations will have to pay the equivalent of property taxes to their cities and towns, and will need to pass this cost onto tenants through higher rents.

This year Governor Malloy proposed a budget that would eliminate the Pilot (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) and Tax Abatement programs to reduce the state budget deficit. This means that the City of Meriden will not receive property tax payments from the state for our public housing and tax abatement properties..

Some politicians say that the state must cut and cut and cut. But there are times that the state needs to do the right thing, like spending money to help our cities and our poorest residents. For example, if the state does not fund the PILOT payments, then property taxes for Meriden homeowners would increase and rents for public housing residents would increase.

Thank you.

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